Standard bidding document in PMGSY

*654. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : ††

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to draw up a standard bidding document to ensure full enforcement of the guidelines for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, whether the document prescribed for the use of executing agencies of PMGSY was circulated to the States last week of March, 2003;

(c) if so, what are the main guidelines issued; and

(d) to what extent these documents prescribed by the Centre would help in checking the misuse of funds for implementing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A Standard Bidding Document has been developed for roadworks under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and circulated to the State Government implementing agencies on 27th March, 2003.

(c) The Standard Bidding Document has the following main provisions :

(i) The tender will be invited for construction as well as maintenance of the road work for five years. The funds for the construction will be provided through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the funds for maintenance of the road work for five years will be provided by the State Government.

(ii) The technical qualification of the contractor in terms of the bidding capacity, the experience of civil engineering works and in relevant field, possession of requisite machinery and equipments and financial capacity etc. will be evaluated before opening of the financial offer.

(iii) The responsibility of establishment of Quality Control laboratory and mandatory testing will be of the contractor. The contractor will be required to employ requisite engineering and technical staff.

(iv) In place of normal Arbitration provisions, a more effective and less time consuming process of dispute redress system has been provided.

(d) The Standard Bidding Document has been prescribed with a view to

†† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Ambika Soni.

streamlining the tendering and contracting process, which will help in smooth and efficient execution of the works and better quality.

श्री सभापति : आप डा. टी. सुब्बारामी रेड्डी को क्यों साथ रखती हैं। यह बात गलत है।

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Sir, it is after over two years of launching of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, today, the Government thought it fit to put or announce or constitute a Standard Bidding Document. Is it because the Government come to know that out of 3,378 projects implemented so far, only 231 projects have made it to the 'very good' mark? If it is so, there is nothing special in what you have put in the Standard Bidding Document. Why was this document not put on 25th December, 2000, when this Scheme was launched? Is it because you have come across the lack of transparency in disbursal of funds, specially pertaining to the State of Uttar Pradesh? Is it also a fact that you are thinking of reducing fund allocation to the erring States? If 'so', why cannot you grant more funds to States like Punjab which are implementing the projects efficiently?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, at the outset, it is the responsibility of various State Government to implement the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. We have put in this Standard Bidding Document in practice after two years of experience because we thought that we should come out with a Standard Bidding Document which is in accordance with the parameters of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. After making this Document mandatory, a lot of good things have happened. The first one is construction and maintenance has been made the responsibility of the contractor for five years. That is one thing. Secondly, there will be a two-way approach. There will be better quality control. We are also getting done the litigation redressal. We are achieving all these things because of this. This is one thing. Then, there is no link between the Standard-bidding Document and the allocation of funds to various State Governments. We have been allocating money to the various State Government according to their weightage. Even in the cases of Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab, we have done the same thing.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Sir, either I have not been able to put my question properly, or, the hon. Minister has not been able to understand what I have asked. I did not ask that. I have reports here, which say that it is wholly a Centrally-sponsored scheme. They are thinking of cutting allocations to those States which have not been able to complete their projects in time, or, have not been up to the standards that have been set. There are several State Governments that have represented against this weightage scheme of the Government. They

have asked for more funds because they contribute a greater amount to the diesel cess. Is that proposal being considered by the Minister?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, first of all, I would like to say that this Standard-Bidding Document is to improve the quality of roads. It has nothing to do with cutting allocations of any State Government. Secondly, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna is not linked with the diesel cess proportion, accrued from that State. Because, as it has been explained very clearly, in the aims of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, there are unconnected habitations of five hundred and five hundred plus and thousand plus. It is the motive of this *yojna* to connect these habitations in the first instance. Therefore, though the money is accruing from the diesel cess, yet it is the need of that State, the need of that district, the need of that habitation, which is paramount.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we appreciate this scheme, that is, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. But the Ministry must take action to remove the red-tapism. We do find that there is gross red-tapism in communication, in allocation, in expenditure, in everything. Simply sending some notes to the State Governments and saying that it is a State subject, and we have sent the money, would not help. So, what action are you going to take to minimise the red-tapism, and to implement it more successfully?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Actually, Sir, there is no red-tapism. *(Interruptions)* The responsibility of the State Government is to come out with a core document of the roads that need to be networked. As soon as we get that proposal, we release the amount. Only in the cases of one or two States, which have not given the utilization certificate, the next tranche of money is delayed. But the programme has been a great success in the rest of the country.

SHRI M. V. RAJASEKARAN : Sir, the Rural Connectivity Plan, which had been announced by the hon. Minister, depends upon the successful implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. The hon. Minister, while replying to another question, has been referring to the matter of setting up a Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, consisting of Members of Parliament. Will the hon. Minister refer the standard building of roads as well as quality maintenance, along with, standard- bidding to this Committee, and include it as a part of guidelines?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, actually the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, headed by the respective Members of Parliament, is going to undertake all these things, including standard-bidding document, quality control and implementation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 655